REMARKS

I.   Introduction

Claims 1-58 are pending in the present application. In an August 26. 2004. Office Action (herein "Office Action") Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-15, 18-22, 24, 32-43, and 47-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No 6,714,977 (herein "Fowler"). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Fowler. Additionally, Claims 8. 23. 26 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Fowler in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,429,893 to Xin (herein "Xin"). Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Fowler in view of Xin further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,439 to Burger (herein "Burger"). Finally, Claims 28-31 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Fowler in view of Burger.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims of the present application are not anticipated nor obvious over Fowler, Xin or Burger, alone or in combination, because the cited and applied references fail to teach or suggest a central server that obtains monitoring device data from a number of geographically distinct sites and processes monitoring device data from each site according to specific monitoring device rules. Prior to discussing more detailed reasons why applicants believe that all the claims of the present invention are allowable, a brief description of the present invention and the primary cited reference are presented.

A.   Summary of the Present Invention

The present application is directed toward a system and method for implementing a configurable security monitoring system for a plurality of remote monitoring sites. In accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the present invention, the integrated information portal includes a number of monitoring devices located at geographically distinct sites that produce monitoring device data for a defined monitoring target. The integrated information

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system also includes a central server that obtains monitoring device data from the monitoring devices and processes the monitoring device data according to a set of monitoring rules. The monitoring rules may be defined according to the type of monitoring device data that is received. Based on the evaluation of the monitoring rules, the central server generates outputs in the form of communication to one or more authorized users via a variety of communication mediums and devices and/or the initiation of actions as specified in the monitoring rules.

Numerous advantages may be realized by the method and system recited in the present application. In one aspect, the central server can utilize the monitoring rules to customize processing of monitoring device data for individual premises or a group of premises. In another aspect, the central server can be configured to process the monitoring device data without requiring processing capabilities at the premises. In still another aspect of the present invention, the central server can utilize the various monitoring device rules to selectively process the same monitoring device data for a variety of premises servers by applying different monitoring device rules. Still further, the central server can generate approximate outputs with out direct access to the monitoring devices. Additional advantages may also be realized within the present invention.

B. U.S. Patent No. 6,714,977 ("Fowler et al.")

Fowler is purportedly directed toward a system and method for monitoring an enclosed space over a communication network. Generally described, Fowler teaches the utilization of various low cost, independent monitoring components (e.g., "bots"), that monitor and report various conditions associated with a monitored space. Each bot is specifically configured to monitor specific parameters, such as a climate bot, a video climate bot, a net bot, etc. In turn, each bot processes raw monitored data and provides processed data to a user over a communication network. Thus, Fowler is directed toward a de-centralized monitoring

environment. Fowler, however fails to teach or suggest a centralized server component that obtains monitoring device data from monitoring devices at geographically distinct sites and processes the data according to various monitoring device rules. Fowler further fails to teach or suggest characterizing the monitoring device data as asset, resource or event data.

II.   The Claims Distinguished

A.   Claim 1

As amended, Claim 1 reads as follows:

> 1.   In an integrated information system including a central server in communication with two or more geographically distinct sites, a method for processing monitoring device data, the method comprising:
>
> obtaining monitoring device data from the two or more geographically distinct sites, wherein the monitoring device data corresponds to at least one monitoring device at each geographically distinct site;
>
> obtaining one or more monitoring rules corresponding to the at least one monitoring device, wherein the one or more rules establish a threshold for the monitoring device data;
>
> processing the monitoring device data at the central server according to the monitoring rules; and
>
> generating an output corresponding to the processing of the monitoring device data, wherein the output may include no output.

As described above, the present application is directed toward a system and method for implementing a configurable security monitoring system for a plurality of remote monitoring sites. The monitoring rules may be utilized to monitor geographically distinct premises that can be associated with any number of monitoring devices associated with the premises. However, by processing the monitoring device via a centralized server, the present invention, as recited in Claim 1, provides a centralized and customizable monitoring system. Additionally, the present

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invention does not require multiple software applications or components at each premises to process monitoring device data.

The Office Action asserts that Fowler teaches a system that process monitoring device data to generate an appropriate output. In contrast to the claims of the present invention, Fowler is directed toward a low cost monitoring approach in which a number of individual monitoring components (e.g., "bots") provide data gathering and data processing functions. Specifically, Fowler describes the utilization of a climate bot to monitor environmental factors (Col. 7, lines 7-26), a video climate bot to provide a video imaging system (Col. 7, lines 26-44), a net bot to monitor network related parameters (Col. 8, lines 14-32), and a rack bot to monitor parameters associated with a computer rack (Col. 9, lines 7-22).

Fowler is clear that each of the monitoring components, or bots, are designed to provide monitoring functions without the need for additional monitoring capabilities. Each bot can be configured by a network administrator to generate an output corresponding to the data each bot has acquired. For example, Fowler describes the function of a climate bot as "[c]limate bot 30 can report the status of its parameters that it is monitoring via a web page, email or paging." (Col. 7, lines 13-15). However, Fowler does not teach that bots in turn transmit their data, e.g., monitoring device data, to a centralized server for processing. Transmission to a centralized site for processing would not be necessary in Fowler because each bot is autonomous in nature. Thus, although the bots could be networked, they would never be networked or integrated with a monitoring system that centrally processes monitoring device data. Instead, in accordance with Fowler, each bot could only be networked to combine the already processed results.

> It should be noted that the present invention is self-contained and does not need to be connected to or integrated with the user system or cpu. The present invention can be linked up with one or more of the users system via standalones, laptops, or another cpu to take advantage of any additional functionality that those systems might provider, although it is

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not necessary for the implementation and operation of the present invention.

(Col. 15, lines 35-42).

As described, Fowler fails to teach or suggest a central server that processes monitoring device data from two or more geographically distinct sites. Instead, Fowler is clearly directed toward a de-centralized embodiment in which monitoring device data is acquired and processed by individual monitoring components. Thus, Fowler fails to teach or suggest "processing the monitoring device data at the central server according to the monitoring rules" as recited in Claim 1. Because Fowler fails to teach each limitation recited in Claim 1, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of Claim 1.

B.   Claims 2-33

Claims 2-33 depend on independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Fowler fails to teach or suggest processing monitoring device data from two or more geographically distinct sites at the central server according to the monitoring rules. Accordingly, for the above-mentioned reasons, Claims 2-33 are allowable over Fowler. Additionally, applicants respectfully submit the additionally cited references, Xin and Burger, fail to teach or suggest the deficiencies associated with Fowler. Accordingly, Claims 2-33 are allowable over Fowler, Xin and Burger, alone or in combination. Additionally, Claims 2-33 further add to the non-obviousness of applicants' invention, the details of which are discussed below.

Claim 3 adds to the nonobviousness of applicants' invention limitations related to characterizing device data as asset data, resource data or event data. Claim 6 further adds to the nonobviousness of applicants' invention obtaining monitoring rules corresponding to the characterization of the monitoring device data. The Office Action asserts that Fowler teaches these limitations because "the data must be characterized since thresholds pertaining to a smoke alarm setting would not be useful for a humidity sensor reading data." Applicants respectfully

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assert that Fowler in no way teaches any type of characterization of monitoring device data. Instead, each monitoring component, e.g., bot, is configured specifically to monitoring particular types of data that are predefined. Provided that each bot is specifically configured to monitor different types of data, there would be no need to characterize the incoming type of monitoring device data and associate monitoring rules according to the characterization as recited in Claims 3 and 6. This point is further accentuated by the fact that Fowler is limited to a decentralized monitoring system in which there is no centralized processing of monitoring device data. Accordingly, applicants further assert that Fowler, alone or in combination with Xin or Burger, fails to teach or suggest the additional limitations of Claim 3 or Claim 6 and their respective dependent claims.

C.   Claims 34-47

In a manner similar to independent Claim 1, independent Claim 34 recites a central processing server that obtains monitoring device data from two or more geographically distinct sites. Claim 34 also recites that the central processing server processes monitoring device data from the two or more geographically distinct sites according to processing rules. As discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, Fowler fails to teach or suggest processing monitoring device data from two or more geographically distinct sites at the central server according to the monitoring rules. In contrast, Fowler is limited to teach a decentralized monitoring environment in which individual monitoring bots obtain and process monitoring device data. Because Fowler fails to teach each limitation recited in Claim 34, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of Claim 34.

Claims 35-47 depend on independent Claim 34. Accordingly, for the above-mentioned reasons, applicants submit that Claims 35-47 are allowable over Fowler. Additionally, Claims 37 adds to the nonobviousness of applicants' invention that the monitoring device data is

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characterized as asset data, resource data or event data. As discussed above with respect to Claims 3 and 6, applicants further assert that Fowler fails to teach or suggest the characterization of the monitoring device data and the selection of processing rules according to the characterization. Therefore, Claim 37 and its dependent claims are further allowable over the cited applied art.

D.   Claims 48-58

In a manner similar to independent Claims 1 and 34, independent Claim 48 recites central processing means for obtaining the monitoring device data from two or more geographically distinct sites and processing the monitoring device data according to one or more monitoring device rules. As discussed above with respect to independent Claims 1 and 34, Fowler fails to teach or suggest processing monitoring device data from two or more geographically distinct sites at the central server according to the monitoring rules. In contrast, Fowler is limited to teach a decentralized monitoring environment in which individual monitoring bots obtain and process monitoring device data. Because Fowler fails to teach each limitation recited in Claim 48, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of Claim 48.
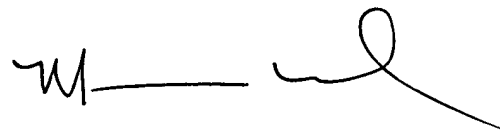
Claims 49-58 depend on independent Claim 48. Accordingly, for the above-mentioned reasons, applicants submit that Claims 49-58 are allowable over Fowler. Additionally, Claims 51 adds to the nonobviousness of applicants' invention that the monitoring device data is characterized as asset data, resource data or event data. As discussed above with respect to Claims 3, 6 and 37, applicants further assert that Fowler fails to teach or suggest the characterization of the monitoring device data and the selection of processing rules according to the characterization. Therefore, Claim 51 and its dependent claims are further allowable over the cited applied art.

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III. Conclusion

Based on the above-referenced arguments, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims of the present application, Claims 1-58, are allowable over the cited and applied references. Because the cited and applied references fail to teach or suggest a central server that obtains monitoring device data two or more geographically distinct sites and processes the rules according to specific monitoring device rules., applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the rejection of all the claims of the present application and the allowance of the present application. If any questions remain, applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
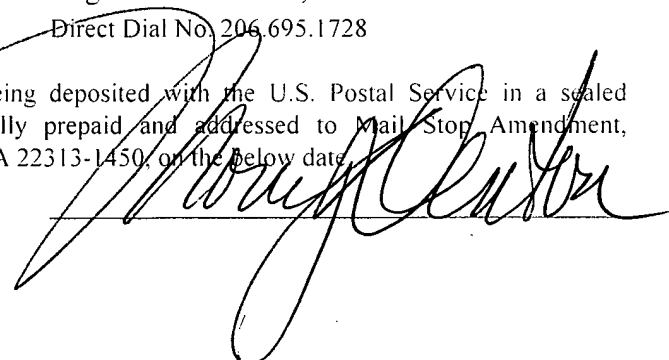
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Date: _February 25, 2005_

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